

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/578,145	HAYASHIDA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	CAITLIN FOGARTY	1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the response filed 3/29/2010.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 9-11.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/28/2009
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/14/2010.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

/Caitlin Fogarty/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/ Roy King/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793

ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Weining Wang on June 14, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace claim 11 with the following:

Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility and free from bald spots as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dipping time is 40 sec up to a dipping time such that the HCl concentration (mass%) x dipping time (sec) is 520.

Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132

The declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed March 29, 2010 is sufficient to overcome the rejection of claim 1 based upon JP '541 applied under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Reasons For Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of JP '541 no longer teaches a hot rolled steel sheet with an overlapping composition, specifically an overlapping silicon composition, due to the amended claims filed March 29, 2010. JP '541 teaches in [0021] that it becomes impossible to control corrosion-resistant degradation even if it uses the manufacturing method of JP '541 if

the Si composition exceeds 1.2%. Therefore, JP '541 teaches away from increasing the Si composition above 1.2% as recited in instant independent claim 1. In addition, the declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed March 29, 2010 demonstrates the criticality of the pickling conditions and the effect of bald spots on the steel sheet. The declaration demonstrates that the pickling conditions used to prepare the steel sheets of JP '541 are outside of the pickling conditions of the present invention and that the steel sheets of JP '541 contain bald spots whereas the hot rolled steel sheet prepared by the pickling of the instant invention are free from bald spots. Therefore, Applicants have demonstrated that the instant invention of claims 1 and 9 – 11 is distinct from the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CAITLIN FOGARTY whose telephone number is (571)270-3589. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ Roy King/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1793

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